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## STUCK. AGAIN.

With time running out, partisanship sinks a deal to extend the payroll tax break **7**



AP AND GETTY IMAGES/EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION





eye openers

DISAPPOINTING PROPOSALS

She'd Wanted Something Classier, Like on a Jumbotron

A Norwich, Conn., man proposed to his girlfriend using a holiday light display. Jeremy Wilcox and his mother spent about two hours putting the words "Will you marry me?" in lights across a fence at the family home. He popped the question to Elizabeth Caron on Dec. 10 by lighting up his proposal as she was viewing the decorations. She said yes. (AP)

BANS

Solution Would Be as Unpopular as Prohibition

Three University of Oregon economists have found a link between a winning football season and lower grades for male students. Their findings could give ammo to critics of big-time college sports. Women's grades held up better than men's when the team was doing well in the face of football celebrating. (AP)

ROAD HAZARDS

Reindeer [Could Have] Got Run Over by a Grandma

No one spotted Santa Claus, but several drivers say they encountered a reindeer as they drove along a northeast Ohio highway. Drivers on state Route 21 in Norton had to dodge the reindeer Sunday morning after it fell from the back of a livestock truck and walked down the middle of the lanes. Officers found the truck and returned the reindeer to its owner. (AP)

The Big Picture



**WHICH 'HARRY POTTER' BOOK IS THIS FROM?** Chapel Royal Choir members attempt to skate at the Hampton Court Ice Rink on Monday in London. The event was aimed at highlighting a new charity to fund music lessons for the choristers. (GETTY)



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## In Brief

## NEW YORK

## American Jailed in Peru Arrives in U.S. for Visit



Berenson

Lori Berenson, a New Yorker paroled from a Peruvian prison after 15 years behind bars for aiding a leftist revolutionary group, arrived in the U.S. on Tuesday for her first visit home since her arrest in 1995. (AP)

## WASHINGTON

## Mexico Border National Guard Troop Level Cut

The Obama administration will keep a reduced contingent of National Guard troops working along the Mexican border for the next year, it announced Tuesday. Starting in January, the force of 1,200 National Guard troops will be reduced to fewer than 300. (AP)

## FORT MEADE, MD.

## Prosecution Rests Its Case Against Manning

The prosecution completed laying out its case against Army intelligence analyst Pfc. Bradley Manning, who's blamed for the biggest leak of U.S. classified information in American history. Former hacker Adrian Lamo testified that he told the military court that the depth of Manning's confession in Internet chats compelled him to alert authorities. (AP)

# Outsider In Iowa

Paul's new caucus standing shows the GOP lacks cohesion

Manchester, N.H.

Suddenly, Ron Paul is in contention to win the Iowa caucuses and do well in the New Hampshire primary two weeks before the first votes are cast, reflecting the fluidity of the Republican presidential race as well as the inability of the party's social conservative, tea party and establishment wings to coalesce behind a favored candidate.

Yet, while the libertarian-leaning Texas congressman is earning support for his tight-fisted fiscal positions, he's so out of step with the GOP mainstream on foreign policy and some domestic issues that even his most loyal aides doubt he can use his momentum to win the Republican nomination.

Unlikely Choice

3%

7%

The amount of Iowa caucus-goers who considered Ron Paul to be their second choice, according to a New York Times/CBS News poll, top, and the Des Moines Register's poll, bottom.



## Final Push for Paul

Ron Paul's rise comes as the final push to the Jan. 3 Iowa caucuses begins and Newt Gingrich becomes the latest candidate to slide in a race where Republicans have struggled to settle on an alternative to Mitt Romney. (AP)

"I'm very much in the Republican tradition," Paul insisted Tuesday as he campaigned in New Hampshire before heading back to Iowa on Wednesday. "Very much in the American tradition."

True or not, this much is certain: Paul is having a major impact on the campaign. His outsider persona and refusal to acquiesce to the ways of Washington — he's nicknamed "Dr. No" on Capitol Hill for voting against much legislation — has earned him a loyal following that he's leveraged to build a strong organization in Iowa and elsewhere. The respect that has long eluded him in the party may finally be coming to him.

Still, it's questionable how far he can go.

"He can get 15 to 20 percent in a multi-candidate field but, just like in 2008, when the field gets down to three candidates, voters will focus more clearly and his support will wane," predicted Michael Dennehy, an unaligned GOP operative in New Hampshire.

"And, fair or not, the majority of voters will not feel comfortable with their nominee being a 76-year-old man who generally comes across as a character in Grumpy Old Men." STEVE PEOPLES AND THOMAS BEAUMONT (AP)



**Forever With Fluffy:** For animal lovers in New York who want to be buried with their Persians and Pomeranians, things are looking, er, up. The state Division of Cemeteries last week issued regulations that once again permit pet owners to have their ashes interred with their beloved animals in pet cemeteries. Hartsdale cemetery has been adding human ashes to pet plots since 1925, and an estimated 700 people have joined the 70,000 animals there. (AP)

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# Nation

## Bird Flu Data Stir Security Fears

U.S. to journals: Don't publish details due to bioterror concerns

### Washington

The U.S. government asked scientists Tuesday not to reveal all the details of how to make a version of the deadly bird flu that they created in labs in the U.S. and Europe.

The lab-bred virus, being kept under high security, appears to spread more easily among mammals. That's fueled worry that publishing a blueprint could aid terrorists in creating a biological weapon, the National Institutes of Health said.

But the NIH said it was important for the overall findings to be published in scientific journals because they suggest it may be easier than previously thought for bird flu to mutate on its own and

### Highly Deadly

**Bird flu, known formally as H5N1 avian influenza**, occasionally infects people who have close contact with infected poultry, particularly in parts of Asia. It is highly deadly when it does infect people because it's different from typical human flu bugs. The concern is that one day it may begin spreading easily between people. (AP)

become a greater threat.

"It's very important research," NIH science policy director Dr. Amy Patterson said. "As this virus evolves in nature, we want to be able to rapidly detect ... mutations that may indicate that the virus is getting closer to a form that could cross species lines more readily."

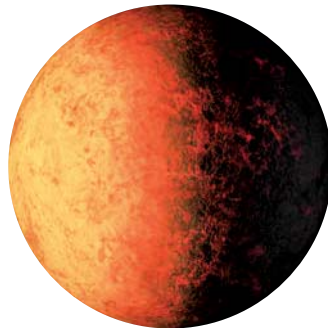
The government's biosecurity advisers — the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity

— reviewed the research as it was submitted to two scientific journals, Science and Nature. Following the board's recommendation, the Department of Health and Human Services asked the researchers and journal editors not to publish the full genetic information.

In a statement, Science editor-in-chief Dr. Bruce Alberts said his journal "has concerns about withholding potentially important public health information from responsible influenza researchers" and was evaluating how best to proceed.

Nature's editor-in-chief, Dr. Philip Campbell, called the recommendations unprecedented.

"It is essential for public health that the full details of any scientific analysis of flu viruses be available to researchers," he said in a statement. The journal is discussing how "appropriate access to the scientific methods and data could be enabled." LAURAN NEERGAARD (AP)



### DISCOVERIES

#### Hot Topic

**In a milestone hailed by scientists** as a key step toward finding another Earth-like world, astronomers Tuesday announced the discovery of two blazingly hot planets roughly the size of Earth about 950 light-years away. The two planets orbit a star much like our sun, but they move so fast and so close that it's too hot for any life-forms to live there.

(THE WASHINGTON POST)

### Denver Police Crack Down on Protesters



**A DENVER POLICE OFFICER** shoves a protester, identified as Nicole, to the ground as they evict Occupy Denver protesters and remove tarps and sleeping bags early Tuesday from Civic Center Park in Denver. Police said two people were arrested that day on suspicion of arson after some shelters went up in flames.

DANIEL PETTY/AP

**20%** The portion of adults ages 18 to 29 who were married in 2010, according to new Pew Research Center analysis of census data. In 1960, nearly three out of every five adults ages 18 to 29 were married. (AP)

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# Death Emphasizes Koreas' Rift

Kim Jong Il's passing yields grief-stricken North, aloof South

## Seoul, South Korea

One part of this divided peninsula is paralyzed in frenzied mourning of a leader that it deified. The other is shrugging its collective shoulders, hoping that in the wake of Kim Jong Il's death, nothing too bad will happen.

Kim's body was presented to a grieving North Korea on Tuesday ensconced in a glass case, surrounded by rows of the official state flower, the "Kimjongilia."

The late dictator's youngest son, heir-apparent Kim Jong Un, paid his respects before the cameras, while thousands of North Koreans wept in public squares.

"I feel heartbroken," one middle-aged woman told Pyongyang's state-run media.

For South Koreans, Kim Jong Il's sudden death drove home an unsettling disparity between them and their neighbors — a gap that could spark turmoil, if an unstable



The body of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il lies in state in Pyongyang on Tuesday.

**"It's unrealistic to talk about North Korean provocation now ... as they are engulfed with sadness."**

— CHEONG SEONG-CHANG OF SEJONG INSTITUTE IN SOUTH KOREA, DISMISSING THE IDEA THAT KIM JONG IL'S DEATH WILL TRIGGER NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSION.

North Korea were to collapse. At this point, some in Seoul say, North and South Korea hold nothing in common but a language.

Decades ago, the two Koreas shared a history, with millions in each country holding memories of the Korean War. Sentiment in South Korea has shifted slowly against unification, as a younger generation fears the economic havoc it could wreak.

North Korea has turned increas-

## Familiar Loss

Some Koreans said they worried about escalating tension due to the death of North Korea's Kim Jong Il over the weekend. But many remember the sudden 1994 death of North Korea founder Kim Il Sung, which was a moment when many experts predicted the Stalinist nation's demise. But Kim's son, Kim Jong Il, held the country intact, and by the end of the decade, the two Koreas had entered the most peaceful 10-year period of coexistence in their modern history. (TWP)

ingly inscrutable, the result of Kim Jong Il's isolationist policies and, more recently, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak's retreat from most intra-Korean relations.

While the North idealized Kim before and during his 17-year-rule, Koreans in the South derided him. For the past two days, as televisions have transmitted otherworldly images of grief from across the border, South Korean flags stayed at full mast. CHICO HARLAN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

## In Brief

### THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

#### ICC to Review inquiry Into Gadhafi's Death

International Criminal Court prosecutors said Tuesday they will review efforts by Libya's new rulers to investigate the October death of the country's dictator, Moammar Gadhafi. Prosecutors said in a letter to the lawyer of a Gadhafi relative that they will give details of the review to the U.N. Security Council in May. (AP)

### MADRID

#### Parliament Votes In PM

Spain's Parliament voted in Conservative Mariano Rajoy as the new prime minister on Tuesday, when the country also saw its borrowing costs plummet in a debt auction, indicating renewed market confidence in its ability to handle its debt. Rajoy was guaranteed to pass after his Popular Party saw a landslide victory in the Nov. 20 parliamentary vote. (AP)

### KINSHASA, CONGO

#### President Sworn In Despite Disputed Vote

Congo's president, Joseph Kabila, was sworn in Tuesday for another term, after an election that was criticized by international observers. Meanwhile, opposition candidate Etienne Tshisekedi planned his own inauguration in a move that could spark political chaos. (AP)

## CELEBRATIONS

### Final Countdown

Cities and towns in the Mayan region of Mexico on Wednesday are starting the countdown to Dec. 21, 2012 — when some believe the Maya predicted the end of the world — with giant clocks, Mayan rituals and parties throughout the year. But most Mexican archaeological experts say that the 2012 reference on a 1,300-year-old stone tablet only marks the end of an era in the Mayan calendar, not an apocalypse. (AP)



# Women in Cairo Protest Abuses

## Cairo

About 10,000 women marched through central Cairo demanding Egypt's ruling military step down Tuesday in an unprecedented show of outrage over soldiers who dragged women by the hair and stomped on them, and stripped one half-naked in the street during a fierce crackdown on activists the past week.

The protest was fueled by the widely circulated images of abuses of women.

"Tantawi stripped your women naked, come join us," the crowd chanted to passers-by, referring to Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, the head of the military council that



A protester in Cairo on Tuesday waves a photograph of police abusing a woman.

has ruled Egypt since the Feb. 11 fall of Hosni Mubarak.

The military council issued

an unusually strong statement of regret for what it called "violations" against women — a quick turnaround after days of dismissing the significance of the abuse. It promised it was taking measures to punish those responsible for violations.

The statement suggested the military's fear that the attacks could wreck its prestige at home and abroad, which has been eroded by its five-day-old crackdown on protesters demanding it surrender power that left 14 people dead and hundreds wounded.

The public and many activists welcomed the military when it took over in February. But relations have deteriorated sharply. (AP)

## Hearsay



**"My memory's not great about this. It was a long time ago."**

— PIERS MORGAN, SPEAKING TUESDAY DURING A JUDGE-LED INQUIRY INTO MEDIA ETHICS, DENYING KNOWLEDGE OF THE PHONE HACKING SCANDAL IN BRITAIN THAT LED TO THE CLOSURE THIS SUMMER OF THE NEWS OF THE WORLD, THE TABLOID HE ONCE EDITED.



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## World

### Iraqi VP Denies Role in Terrorism

**Baghdad**

The political crisis that has erupted in Iraq widened Tuesday after the country's Sunni vice president denied terrorism charges leveled against him, alleging that three of his bodyguards gave false confessions after interrogations by Shiite-controlled security forces.

Tariq al-Hashimi said he was ready to stand trial, but only in the region to which he has fled: the semiautonomous region of Kurdistan.

Three of al-Hashimi's former bodyguards were shown on television confessing to participating in assassinations and bombings that targeted mid-level officials. Al-Hashimi provided his account

#### Backstory



**An arrest warrant** was issued Monday in Iraq for Tariq al-Hashimi, the country's Sunni vice president, for allegedly organizing death squads. The accusations date back to the height of the war in 2006 and 2007. (TWP/AP)

of the charges Tuesday, saying they were the work of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite.

The arrest warrant against al-Hashimi threatens to tear apart Iraq's coalition government.

(THE WASHINGTON POST/AP)

### Death Toll Rises in Philippines Flooding



AARON FAVILA/AP

**WORKERS PREPARE COFFINS** Tuesday in Manila, Philippines, to be sent with aid to flooded towns in the south. A tropical storm struck Friday, killing nearly 1,000 people, though the toll is expected to rise. President Benigno Aquino III declared a state of national calamity during a visit to the region Tuesday.

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## Cover Story

**"President Obama needs to call on Senate Democrats to go back into session ... and resolve this bill as soon as possible. I need the president to help out."**

— SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE **JOHN BOEHNER**, SURROUNDED BY FELLOW REPUBLICAN HOUSE MEMBERS WHO WERE AGAINST THE SENATE'S TEMPORARY PAYROLL TAX CUT EXTENSION.



**"The bipartisan compromise that was reached on Saturday is the only viable way to prevent a tax hike on January 1st. The only one."**

— **PRESIDENT OBAMA**, WHO BLAMED REPUBLICANS FOR ANY DAMAGE THE STANDOFF OVER PAYROLL TAX CUTS MIGHT CAUSE.

# A Standoff Over Taxes

Gridlock rules on the Hill again as the House blocks the Senate's payroll plan

## Washington

Congress lurched toward Grinch-like gridlock on Tuesday as the Republican-controlled House rejected a two-month extension of Social Security tax cuts that President Obama said was "the only viable way" to prevent a drop in take-home pay for 160 million workers on Jan. 1.

"The clock is ticking; time is running out," Obama said shortly after the House voted 229-193 to request negotiations with the Senate on renewing the payroll tax cuts for a year.

House Speaker John Boehner, said that Obama had sought his help on a compromise, replied, "I need the president to help out." His voice rose as he said it, and his words were cheered by dozens of Republican lawmakers who have pushed

him and the rest of the leadership to pursue a more confrontational strategy with Democrats and the White House in an already contentious year of divided government.

This time, it wasn't a partial government shutdown or even an unprecedented Treasury default that was at stake, but the prospect that payroll taxes would rise and long-term unemployment benefits end for millions of jobless victims of the worst recession since the 1930s.

Yet another deadline has been entangled in the dispute, this one affecting seniors, but the administration announced it had finessed a way around it. Officials said paperwork for doctors who treat Medicare patients in the early days of the new year will not be processed until Jan. 18, giving lawmakers more time to avert a 27 percent cut in fees threatened for Jan. 1.

## The Tale of Two Plans

**The House on Tuesday** rejected a bipartisan Senate compromise to extend a payroll tax cut for two months, along with unemployment benefits, plunging Washington into uncertainty just days before Christmas about the fate of the tax cut enjoyed by 160 million workers. On a vote of 229-193, the House set aside the Senate bill and requested a formal conference with the Senate, setting up a showdown with the Democrat-controlled Senate and President Obama, who has demanded that the House approve the short-term plan now to avoid a Jan. 1 tax hike. (TWP)

### House bill

APPROVED DEC. 13

**Price tag:** \$180 billion.

**Social Security:** Keeps this year's 4.2 percent Social Security payroll tax rate paid by 160 million workers through the end of 2012, instead of rising to 6.2 percent on Jan. 1.

**Jobless benefits:** Extends expiring benefits for the long-term jobless through 2012, but at a maximum of 79 weeks coverage, less in some cases, which is well below this year's 99-week limit. Revamps program to require beneficiaries without high school diplomas to seek an equivalent degree; lets states test applicants for illegal drug use.

**Medicare:** Prevents 27 percent cut in Medicare payments to doctors for 2012.

**Other provisions:** Blocks administration rule curbing pollution from industrial boilers; extends tax break for businesses buying equipment for 2012.

### Senate bill

APPROVED SATURDAY

**Price tag:** \$33 billion.

**Social Security:** Extends 2-percentage-point cut in the Social Security payroll tax through Feb. 29.

**Jobless benefits:** Renews benefits for the long-term unemployed at current levels through Feb. 29, no other changes in program.

**Medicare:** Prevents a 27 percent cut in Medicare payments to doctors; extends other health care fees through Feb. 29.

**Other provisions:** Paid for by increasing home loan guarantee fees charged to mortgage lenders by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Administration by one-tenth of one percentage point. The fee is passed on to home buyers and will apply to many new purchases and refinancings starting Jan. 1. (AP)

Whatever the stakes, there was little indication that Republicans would get their wish for negotiations with the Senate any time soon. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid issued a statement saying he would be happy to resume talks on a year-long measure — "but not before" the House ratifies the two-month bill and sends it to Obama for his

signature. Given Obama's remarks and Reid's refusal to negotiate, it was unclear what leverage Republicans had in the year-end standoff.

The standoff was sowing confusion in business, running out of days to adapt to any new payroll tax regimen. Even the Senate's proposed two-month extension was creating headaches because it contained a two-tiered system geared to ensuring that higher-income earners paid a higher rate on some of their wages.

Obama said Republicans would be to blame for the consequences of a standoff. "Right now, the recovery is fragile, but it is moving in the right direction," he said. "Our failure to do this could have effects not just on families but on the economy as a whole." DAVID ESPO (AP)

**58**

The percentage of Americans who want Congress to vote to continue the payroll tax cut, according to an AP-GfK poll this week. (AP)





# Another Chaotic Metro Morning

Agency will inspect all 5000 series rail cars after part fell off

Washington

Metro will inspect the brakes on all of its 5000 series rail cars — about 18 percent of its fleet — after a part fell off a moving train outside L’Enfant Plaza on Tuesday and shut down service along the heart of the Orange and Blue lines for hours.

Adjacent stations filled with smoke, and hundreds of passengers had to be evacuated from the train after the incident, which

occurred about 9:40 a.m. Metro officials said no major injuries were reported.

During a press conference Tuesday afternoon, Metro General Manager Richard Sarles said it would be premature to guess why the “friction ring,” similar to a brake disc on a vehicle, became disconnected.

Sarles said it is “rare” for one of the parts to fall off. “An investigation will come to the root cause,” he said.

When the friction ring fell off the Blue Line train, it created a spark and smoke, and landed between the electrified third rail and the running rails of the track, Metro offi-

Bad History

Metro said it has 194 of the 5000 series rail cars in its fleet of 1,100. The 5000 series cars have had troubles before. Metro spent \$383 million buying the 5000 rail car series from CAF Inc. of Spain, and they have had a history of electrical, software and wheel problems. The Blue Line train was last inspected on Dec. 8, Metro said. (TWP)

cials said. Two Orange Line trains that were behind the Blue Line train heading in the direction of Vienna were also damaged, Sarles said. The Blue Line train kept going, and passengers disembarked at the

Smithsonian station.

Roughly 300 passengers on the Orange Line train behind it were stranded when that train “became mechanically disabled after striking the friction ring,” said Dan Stessel, Metro’s chief spokesman.

Passengers were evacuated as emergency personnel made a human chain to help guide them to the Smithsonian station’s platform, Metro officials said.

Streets around L’Enfant Plaza and the Smithsonian stops were shut down as crews responded, and shuttle buses were used to move stranded passengers. DANA HEDGPETH (THE WASHINGTON POST)

# Man Found Walking on Train Track

Washington

A man was found walking on the track of the Red Line at about 8:55 a.m., just outside the Judiciary Square stop Tuesday, Metro officials said. He was not injured.

The man, who was heading in the direction of Glenmont, was not authorized to be on the tracks, Metro said. A train operator assisted him back to the platform, according to Metro chief spokesman Dan Stessel.

Stessel said power on the third line was turned off briefly, and power was restored Tuesday. (TWP)



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## In Brief

## ANNAPOLIS, MD.

## Gov. Met to Discuss End Of Death Penalty Funding



O'Malley

Gov. Martin O'Malley, who opposes capital punishment, held a July meeting with two lawmakers and a death penalty opponent to discuss the possibility of ending funding for executions in the budget for the next fiscal year. O'Malley's scheduling records indicate the July 22 meeting was requested by Delegate Samuel Rosenberg, a Baltimore Democrat who has sponsored legislation to end capital punishment in Maryland. (AP)

## GREENBELT, MD.

## Store Owner Sentenced In Corruption Case

The owner of several Prince George's County liquor stores has been sentenced to nearly four years in prison for his role in a corruption scheme that involved then-county executive Jack Johnson. Amrik Melhi, 52, was sentenced Tuesday to three years and 10 months in prison. He pleaded guilty in June to conspiring to transport and distribute untaxed alcoholic beverages. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

## The Lotteries

## Tuesday, Dec. 20

## District

Mid-day Lucky Numbers ..... 2-8-5  
Evening Lucky Numbers (Mon.) ..... 4-6-9  
Mid-day DC 4 ..... 4-5-0-2  
Evening DC 4 (Mon.) ..... 9-6-4-6  
Mid-day D.C. Five ..... 4-7-5-8-8  
Evening D.C. Five (Mon.) ..... 8-6-7-3-0

## Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3 ..... 4-5-5  
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.) ..... 6-5-9  
Mid-day Pick 4 ..... 2-6-9-8  
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.) ..... 5-1-4-5  
Match 5 (Mon.) ..... 18-24-26-30-36 (13)

## Virginia

Mid-day Pick 3 ..... 0-6-7  
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.) ..... 4-1-6  
Mid-day Pick 4 ..... 1-4-6-9  
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.) ..... 9-5-5-4  
Mid-day Cash 5 (Tues.) ..... 6-9-13-17-25  
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.) ..... 7-20-21-23-31

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a claims location. Drawings that occur after Express' deadline will be published two days later.

## Council Overhauls Ethics Rules

For first time since 1973, impeachment process is in place

## Washington

The D.C. Council approved an overhaul of the city's ethics laws Tuesday, toughening disclosure requirements and for the first time agreeing on an impeachment process that punishes misconduct.

The bill, approved by a vote of 12-1, caps a six-month effort by the council to respond to a series of ethical controversies involving some council members that have shaken the public's confidence in

its ability to police itself. Council member Tommy Wells, D-Ward 6, voted no.

Under the legislation, which now goes to Mayor Vincent C. Gray, a Democrat, for his signature, the council voted to establish a new three-member ethics panel, bar felons from serving on the council or as mayor and — for the first time — grant powers to the D.C. attorney general to prosecute elected officials accused of ethical misconduct.

During the final series of votes Tuesday, the council also agreed to establish a process, for the first time since Home Rule in 1973, that would enable the council to remove a colleague if 11 of 13 members agree.

## Backstory

The U.S. attorney's office is investigating whether Harry Thomas Jr. diverted more than \$300,000 in public funds for personal use, whether Kwame Brown steered campaign money to his brother's company and whether the Gray campaign paid another mayoral candidate to disparage Adrian Fenty in last year's election. All have denied any wrongdoing. Michael Brown, I-At large, also failed to pay his taxes on time this year, and Council member Jim Graham's then-chief of staff, Ted Loza, pleaded guilty to felony charges of accepting a cash payment. (TWP)

"To make these kinds of improvements that we did today shows our commitment to make sure ethics reform is alive and well," said Council Chairman Kwame R. Brown, a Democrat.

Brown, whose 2008 campaign expenditures are under scrutiny, had promised the council would act on the reforms before the end of the year.

With half of the body up for election next year, Brown and his colleagues hope the new legislation will help them pivot away from the ethical controversies and investigations that have partially consumed the government this year.

TIM CRAIG (THE WASHINGTON POST)

## Let There Be Light



WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

**THE NATIONAL MENORAH IS LIT** for the first night of Hanukkah on the National Mall Tuesday in D.C. Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday marking the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.



**Last-Ditch Effort:** Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich is scheduled to hold a rally at the Key Bridge Marriott on Wednesday night, Politico reports. The appearance is part of an effort to get the necessary signatures for him to appear on the Virginia Republican presidential primary ballot. Candidates have until Dec. 22 to collect 10,000 signatures from across the state and another 400 from each congressional district. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

## Smithsonian Gets \$52M Hike In 2012 Funding

## Washington

The Smithsonian Institution is receiving a \$52 million increase in funding from Congress for 2012, with the increase primarily devoted to building a museum on the National Mall devoted to black history.

Figures released Tuesday show the Smithsonian stands to receive \$811.5 million in federal funding for the 2012 fiscal year. The budget includes \$75 million to begin building the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

There is also \$100 million for facilities improvements. That includes \$11 million to renovate a wing of the National Museum of American History, \$17 million for the National Zoo and \$8 million to revitalize the National Museum of Natural History. (AP)



## Sports

# An Inexact Science

Predicting a QB prospect's success in the NFL is as hard as it seems

## Pro Football

John Wooten, the former vice president of player personnel for the Eagles, made the cross-country trip from Philadelphia to Pullman, Wash., in 1997 because he wanted to see Ryan Leaf take part in a scheduled workout at Washington State University. Back then, scouts debated whether Leaf or Peyton Manning should be the No. 1 pick in the draft.

When about three dozen travel-fatigued scouts arrived at the campus, Leaf let them know he had changed his mind: he didn't feel like practicing that day after all. Physically, Leaf had everything. But his indifference on the doorstep of the draft influenced Wooten more than Leaf's perfect grades for arm strength and accuracy.

Projecting success among quarterbacks in the NFL, Wooten said, "is as difficult as it seems." But, he added, such incidents "are the kinds of things that you draw on."

Unmeasurable, hard-to-quantify attributes provide, perhaps, the biggest distinction between quarterbacks destined for busts in Canton, Ohio, and those who end up as busts. The rise of the accuracy-challenged Tim Tebow for the Denver Broncos this season perfectly illustrates the imperfect science of projecting quarterback success in the NFL.

The NFL's draft history proves the challenges of projecting quarterbacks' success. John Elway, Terry Bradshaw, Michael Vick and Manning share a trait with JaMarcus Russell, David Carr, Tim Couch, Vinny Testaverde and Steve Bartkowski: All

## From Tops to Flops

### TOP TOP PICKS

**PEYTON MANNING:** The four-time MVP's true value to the Colts can be measured this season, in which the team is 1-13 without him.

**TERRY BRADSHAW:** Before he was a loudmouth on Fox, Bradshaw turned the Steelers into the team of the 1970s by winning four Super Bowls in six years.

**JOHN ELWAY:** He got his way in demanding a trade to Denver before playing an NFL down, then went on to lead the Broncos to five Super Bowls, winning two under Mike Shanahan.

**MICHAEL VICK:** The Virginia Tech product has excelled on the field with two teams: the Falcons and the Eagles. If not for the dog-fighting scandal, who knows what Vick's reputation would be now?

### BIGGEST SURPRISES

**DREW BREES:** A second-round pick out of Purdue, Brees was considered too small to star in the NFL. He's 305 yards away from setting the NFL's single-season passing record this year.

**JOE MONTANA:** A third-rounder in 1979, he lacked arm strength—that is, until he won three Super Bowls with the 49ers.

**DAN MARINO:** The 27th in 1983 showed no mobility in college. Yet Marino stood tall, throwing for 61,361 yards in a 17-year career.

**TOM BRADY:** The sixth-round pick in 2000 was selected after quarterbacks Chad Pennington, Giovanni Carmazzi, Chris Redman, Tee Martin, Marc Bulger and Spergon Wynn. He's won three more Super Bowl titles than the entire group combined.

### BIGGEST BUSTS

**RYAN LEAF:** The second overall pick behind Manning in '98 retired in 2001 with 14 career touchdown passes and 36 interceptions.

**JAMARCUS RUSSELL:** The Raiders' top pick got a \$61 million contract after a lengthy holdout in 2007; he was out of the game in three years.

**HEATH SHULER:** Taken No. 3 overall by the Redskins in 1994, he was quickly overshadowed by seventh-round pick Gus Frerotte and retired after five seasons.

**TIM COUCH:** The top overall pick by the Browns lasted five years, compiling a record of 22-37. (TWP/EXPRESS)



## This Year's Class

In 19 of the 41 drafts held since 1970, quarterbacks were selected with the first overall pick. Four—Cam Newton, Jake Locker, Blaine Gabbert and Christian Ponder—was picked in the first round last spring. Three have started. Overall No. 1 Newton, above, has an 82.3 QB rating, the 15th best in the league. Ponder is 28th at 72.3, and Gabbert is dead last at 65.6. Cincinnati's Andy Dalton, a second-round pick, may be the best of the group. He's ranked 18th, at 81.0. (TWP)

were No. 1 overall draft picks. All had impressive skills. Not all succeeded. Some were disasters.

"You study it, you ask questions," former Redskins and Houston Texans executive Charley Caserio said. "You try to do physical and psychological analyses. At the end of the day, you don't know."

The Redskins, expected to seek their next franchise quarterback in the 2012 draft, and the rest of the league know that successful NFL quarterbacks require excellence in realms a stop watch can't evaluate, against complex defenses that in many cases look nothing like what they saw in college. They need to learn, lead, direct, react quickly and stay cool regardless of circumstance.

Experts say teams err when they fail to give proper weight to intangible factors, overemphasize a particular physical limitation or overreach in their desire to find someone to play the most important position on the field. "Probably half the teams in the league don't have a good starting quarterback," said Tom Donahoe, who ran drafts for the Bills and Steelers. "When you're in a situation where you don't have one, you're desperate. You're going to reach for a quarterback."

AMY SHIPLEY (THE WASHINGTON POST)

# Heat Shoots to Finish the Job

In the Big 3's second season together, it's the NBA title or bust

## Pro Basketball

To chronicle the first year of LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh teaming up together, the television broadcasting side of the Miami Heat organization recently created a documentary about last season's quest for an NBA title.

And, yes, art imitated life. In the film, Miami still lost the 2011 finals to Dallas. "All movies that we love don't always end in great endings," Wade said. "But it leaves you thirsty for more, hungry for more."

Here comes the sequel: It's Act Two for the Big Three, and the Heat is bringing back almost the exact same cast for what it hopes is another title shot. When its season opens in Dallas on Christmas Day, Miami figures to send out the same starting five as it did for the final game against those Mavericks last season, on the night when James, Wade and Bosh saw Dirk Nowitzki and his pals hoist the trophy



Dwyane Wade looks on dejectedly in the NBA finals, in which Dallas beat Miami.

**"We came together to win the NBA finals. We know it's a long road and we're going to take every step ... no shortcuts."**

— **LEBRON JAMES**, ON THE PROCESS THE MIAMI HEAT IS GOING THROUGH TO CLAIM AN NBA CHAMPIONSHIP.

all NBA players covet most. It sure seems like it's championship-or-bust this season in Miami.

Much like his players, Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said the memories of last season will serve as fuel this time around.

Despite some clearly rough moments — a 9-8 start, a five-game losing streak late in the season, struggling in the regular season against Boston and Chicago

## Small Changes

This offseason was fairly benign for the Miami Heat, a far cry from the wild summer in 2010 when Wade decided to stay in Miami and LeBron James and Chris Bosh decided to play in Miami. The most notable departures from the reigning Eastern Conference champions are a pair of part-time starters in center Zydrunas Ilgauskas (retired) and point guard Mike Bibby (free agent who signed with the Knicks). Shane Battier will be the most prominent newcomer in the Heat rotation. (AP)

before ousting both from the playoffs with relative ease — Spoelstra never seemed to lose control of the Heat a year ago, one of many reasons he got a new contract entering this season.

"It probably took me a month to six weeks before I could start watching and analyzing the series," Spoelstra said. "But time heals. And when you're trying to build something great, the reality is a lot of times, that takes time and experience." TIM REYNOLDS (AP)

## Swengali

## 2011: A Sports Year Worth Forgetting

**As much as I love my wife**, I sometimes hate to admit when she's right (as if often the case).

Never has it hurt so much than when she recently reaffirmed her position that sports aren't worth watching. At least this year, she's correct

that it was better to look away.

Sure, the World Series was a fantastic finish to the season. The Packers' defeating the Steelers in an exciting Super Bowl and then

starting the 2011-12 season 13-0 was a great story. And it's always fun to see LeBron James come up short in the NBA Finals.

**A look at the ... top 10 sports stories of the year reveal just how bleak the past 365 days were.**

But a look at the Associated Press' top 10 sports stories of the year reveals just how bleak the past 365 days were.

The media panel used sound, if depressing, judgment in ruling the sex scandal surrounding Penn State as its top item. Also on the list were the NFL and NBA lockouts, Ohio State's fall from grace, Dan Wheldon's fatal race car wreck and Syracuse's own sex-abuse scandal.

My wife says sports bring out the worst in people. It's true that greed and power trips, often associated with sports, led to most of these sad stories. However, sports can bring out the best in people, too, as Abby Wambach proved during the Women's World Cup.

Things can only improve next year. I know I want to prove my wife wrong — at least just once.

To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail [matt.swenson@readexpress.com](mailto:matt.swenson@readexpress.com)

## TV Lineup

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL (8 P.M., ESPN)

TCU takes on Louisiana Tech in the Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego.

### PRO HOCKEY (7:30 P.M., VERSUS)

Two first-place teams face off when the Philadelphia Flyers visit the Dallas Stars.

### MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS (7 P.M., 9 P.M., ESPN2)

Two intriguing early-season nonconference games are on the schedule as North Carolina plays Texas and Alabama battles Oklahoma State.

## Ohio State Hit With Bowl Ban in Meyer's 1st Year

### College Football

Urban Meyer's first Ohio State team won't be bowl-bound.

The NCAA hit Ohio State with a one-year bowl ban and other penalties on Tuesday for a scandal that involved eight players' taking a total of \$14,000 in cash and tattoos in exchange for jerseys, rings and other Buckeyes memorabilia. Tipped to the violations, then-coach Jim Tressel failed to speak up.

The university had previously offered to vacate the 2010 sea-

### Meanwhile ...



**The Buckeyes** are preparing to play new coach Urban Meyer's former team, Florida, in the Gator Bowl on

Jan. 2. Meyer, a two-time national title winner hired to much acclaim on Nov. 28, has built a solid recruiting class despite the ongoing NCAA problems. But a bowl ban could affect those verbal commitments. (AP)

son, return bowl money, go on two years of NCAA probation and use five fewer football scholarships over the next three years.

But the NCAA countered with a bowl ban in 2012, further reduced the number of scholarships and tacked on a year of probation.

The stiffer penalties — including a finding of a "failure to monitor" of Ohio State's athletic programs — came because of additional problems that followed the tattoo-related violations revealed a year ago, almost to the day. (AP)

**Going Mobile:** The Super Bowl will be streamed online and to phones for the first time, the NFL announced on Tuesday. NBC's broadcasts of wild card Saturday, the Pro Bowl and the Super Bowl will be available on the league's and network's websites and through Verizon's NFL Mobile app. The service will include additional camera angles, in-game highlights and live stats — and replays of those always popular Super Bowl ads. (AP)





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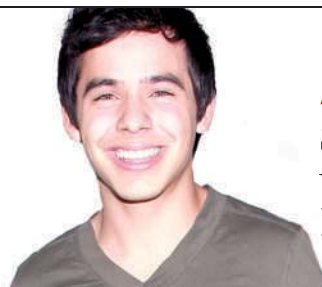


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# lookout



**A Sense of Duty**  
Singer David Archuleta will spend two years as a Mormon missionary **27**

## Inside Jokes



### You Cannot Escape

The title of the **Second City's** new show at Woolly Mammoth doesn't refer to the play itself but life in general. "Spoiler Alert: Everybody Dies" (through Jan. 8) reminds us that we all have expiration dates. And with no control over how or when we head to the other side, we might as well

laugh about it.



By Rudi Greenberg

Comedy has long mined death and fate for humor, but this year seemed particularly bleak. FX's "Louie" dealt with suicide and sudden death. "50/50" found the funny in a 27-year-old's cancer diagnosis. And when Osama bin Laden and Kim Jong Il died, it seemed everyone on Twitter had one-liners ready to go.

"Spoiler Alert" doesn't try to hit you over the head with its message. Rather, the concept acts as a loose framework for the dozens of short sketches and songs that the Chicago improv troupe performs during the two-hour show. A song about fait accompli — the idea that fate is irreversible — bookends the evening as reinforcement.

And while not as affecting as "Louie" or "50/50" — the goal is, after all, to make a live audience laugh — "Spoiler Alert" does end on a particularly poignant note: acceptance.

@ Read Rudi's previous columns at: [expressnightout.com/insidejokes](http://expressnightout.com/insidejokes)

## INK AND KINK

'Dragon Tattoo' lands between high-minded intellectualism and gaudy pulp violence

### Film Review

"The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" is one of this season's buzziest movies, as hotly anticipated by its partisans as any installment of "Harry Potter" or "Twilight." Like Harry and Bella Swan, the title character of Stieg Larsson's best-selling novels has grown into a literary cult figure of freakish devotion.

Admittedly, Rooney Mara's portrayal of punked-out cyber-genius Lisbeth Salander does much to advance the appeal of this spiky heroine, whose victimization at the hands of piggish men and her subsequent avenging fury have made her a feminist avatar for the WikiLeaks era.

More profitably, at least where Hollywood is concerned, she allows "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" and director David Fincher to indulge in the kind of lurid pulp violence and sadistic rituals that make torture-porn such a reliable genre, while flattering the intellec-

### The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R)

► **Director:** David Fincher

► **Stars:** Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara, Christopher Plummer

► **In a Nutshell:** Swedish journalist Mikael Blomkvist is aided in his search for a woman who has been missing for 40 years by Lisbeth Salander, a young computer hacker.

tual and artistic pretensions of the audience by draping them in high-minded themes having to do with buried history, bourgeois hypocrisy and sexism. Handsomely filmed and impeccably acted, "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" is at once satisfying and underwhelming, a pristine, coolly atmospheric procedural thriller that comes to the party a

tad overdressed in hype.

The film begins quietly enough, as wealthy industrialist Henrik Vanger (Christopher Plummer) hires Stockholm journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Daniel Craig) to research a decades-long mystery involving Vanger's niece, Harriet, and her disappearance in the 1960s.

In time, Blomkvist is joined by

Lisbeth, the sullen, leather-clad computer hacker he hires to assist in the case.

"The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" exudes a bleak, wintry sense of spiritual chill, as Blomkvist's research takes him beneath the progressive veneer of Swedish society and self-image and into its loathsome psychological and political recesses. The movie's most unsettling scenes, a brutal rape and an equally torturous act of revenge, are staged by Fincher for maximum shock value. But for the most part, he plays down his stylistic signatures, allowing the performances to project the story's most subtle meanings.

ANN HORNADAY (THE WASHINGTON POST)

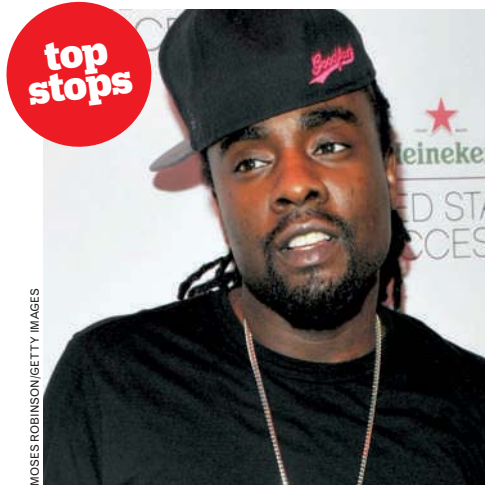
### A NOVEL APPROACH TO MUSIC

Atticus Ross, left, and Trent Reznor, right, started writing music for "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" months before they'd even seen the script. "We tried some new approaches in terms of handing over lots and lots of music that was composed really from an impressionist point of view, before anything was even shot, so that ... the filmmakers could really weave it into the fabric of the story," Reznor says. This allowed the composers, who won a Golden Globe and Academy Award for their score for "The Social Network," to set a chilling mood. "We really wanted to get under the skin of the viewer and contribute to [the] sense of uneasiness," he says. (AP)





lookoutentertainment



1 Testing Limits

While it's a good idea to get tested for HIV just for safety's sake, a free concert with go-go legend Chuck Brown and rapper Wale, left, isn't a small incentive. There will be on-site testing at tonight's show — once you've completed the test, your ticket to the show is free. Bonus: peace of mind and a sense that you've done the right thing. 9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; 6 p.m., free; 202-265-0930, 930.com. (U St.-Cardozo)

2 Spirits of The Season

Hey, look, we found a winter celebration that's not Christmas- or Hanukkah-based! It is, however, based on beer: Smith Commons' Winter Solstice party tonight will feature beers from Great Lakes Brewing and a new menu of winter cocktails, including the Blizzard (whiskey, hazelnut, coffee and whipped cream). Think Dairy Queen will bother to sue? Smith Commons, 1245 H St. NE; 6 p.m., free; 202-396-0038, Smithcommonsdc.com.

3 Christmas in South Park

The profane cartoon series "South Park" has produced several of the most disgusting yet uplifting Christmas episodes on record, including the heart-warming story of Satan-worshipping woodland animals. The Black Cat will screen the show's holiday episodes tonight, accompanied by special \$5 Great Lakes Christmas ales. Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; 8 p.m., free; 202-667-7960, Blackcatdc.com. (U St.-Cardozo)

A photograph of a young woman with dark hair tied back, looking down intently at something out of frame. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white.

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# Expansive Galaxy

In the online epic 'Star Wars: The Old Republic,' characters speak for themselves

## Video Games

It's something that players of single-player video games like "The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim" and "Batman: Arkham City" might take for granted, but an effect that die-hard fans of sprawling online role-playing games such as "World of Warcraft" and "Aion" will appreciate: The characters in "Star Wars: The Old Republic" can actually speak.

With more than 320 actors portraying more than 4,000 characters with 260,000 lines of dialogue, BioWare's "The Old Republic" is poised to feature more voice acting than any other massively multiplayer online game when it launches Tuesday.

BioWare has become synonymous with conversational gameplay that allows players to chat with other characters in the hope of unlocking missions, learning more about the plot, demonstrating morality and even forming virtual bonds — romantic or otherwise.

The developer is taking that



**"Star Wars: The Old Republic" is set thousands of years before the "Star Wars" films.**

virtual chatter online with “Old Republic,” which is set thousands of years before Luke Skywalker battled Darth Vader in a galaxy far, far away. Unlike most other persistent multiplayer games, it relies more on voices than written words to push its narrative forward.

At the start of “Old Republic,” players pledge allegiance to either the Republic or Empire and pick from eight character types. The possibility of 16 different, highly customizable protagonists — eight men, eight women — hyper-speed-

ing through a virtual universe populated with thousands of talkative characters, as well as millions of other players online, presented "The Old Republic" developers at BioWare and LucasArts with several new challenges.

"When you're doing a game like 'The Old Republic,' the acting is like cubism," says LucasArts voice director Will Beckman. "You have to see these characters from every angle and be able to pull it apart and put it back together."

DERRIK J. LANG (AP)

# Common's Split Personality

## The rapper can't get his message straight on a new release

## Album Review

Chicago rapper Common is still trying to have it both ways: “The Dreamer/The Believer” alternates between consciousness-raisers such as “The Believer,” a John Legend-assisted tub-thumper name-checking “Precious,” Oprah and Langston Hughes; and pop-a-bottle jams such as “Celebrate.”

Nowhere is this division more



BRICK DIAMOND/GETTY IMAGES

**On a new CD, Common dreams of dating a woman who cooks pancakes naked.**

evident than in the two opening tracks. On the fantastic exercise in cognitive dissonance “Ghetto Dreams,” Common, with help from Nas, fantasizes about obtaining the



## The Dreamer/ The Believer

### Common

finest in ghetto housewifery, specifically a woman who can cook pancakes naked, has real breasts, and enjoys reading the Bible and getting stoned.

It's preceded by "The Dreamer," a lofty number with a feature from Maya Angelou. If she has anyone in mind for Common, she doesn't mention it. ALLISON STEWART

(THE WASHINGTON POST)

ONE OF THE TOP 10 FILMS OF THE YEAR

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Entertainment EW.com x OWEN GLEIBERMAN

THE GIRL *WITH THE* DRAGON TATTOO

COLUMBIA PICTURES and METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURES PRESENT A SCOTT RUDIN/YELLOW BIRD PRODUCTION A DAVID FINCHER FILM DANIEL CRAIG ROONEY MARA  
"THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO" CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER STELLAN SKARSGÅRD STEVEN DECKERF RUDIN WRIGHT YONICK VAN WAGENINGEN JOEY RICHARDSON  
WRITTEN BY TRENT REZNIK & ATTICUS ROSS DIRECTED BY STEVEN ZALLLIAN MIKAEL WÄLLEN ANNY FANDROYE FERNÁNDEZ BASED ON THE SERIES BY LARSSON PUBLISHED BY  
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# lookout TV tonight

## Best Bets

PBS  
8:00

**Nature** Yellowstone National Park is a beautiful place in winter, but most folks aren't into camping in the snow, so its beauty is rarely seen. "Christmas in Yellowstone" changes that, with delightful footage of grizzly cubs, bison, otters, a bald eagle and a resourceful red fox.



DSC  
9:00

**Sons of Guns** This week's challenge for Will and the RJ team is to build a double-barreled, napalm-spewing flamethrower. Vince, meanwhile, rebuilds a German K98 Mauser rifle.

SHO  
10:00



**A Game of Honor** A film crew spent six months with the Army Black Knights and the Navy Midshipmen (Brian Blick is at left), capturing behind-the-scenes video as the schools prepared for this year's annual Army-Navy football game. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)



Dylan McDermott often stares broodingly in "American Horror Story."

AMERICAN HORROR STORY

## Domestic Disturbance

FX  
10:00

The most audacious series launched this autumn ends its first season tonight. "American Horror Story" has not only been a success, but it marks a move from an FX dominated by brooding male-oriented series to a cable destination for both genders. It's a simplification to call "Horror" a woman's show, but that doesn't make it untrue. It just doesn't condescend to its audience like so many over-the-top soaps on ABC. "Horror" does a great job of combining the shocks of a gothic ghost story with the intensity of a scorching domestic drama.

KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNIVERSAL UCLICK)

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## travel lookout



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# The Kind Side

Sometimes when you travel, it's the little gestures of compassion that make the biggest difference — especially during the holidays. For Jenny Block, it was the nameless American Airlines employee who answered her plea on Twitter.

Her cousin had been left in a coma after a traffic accident, and she needed the airline to bend a flight change rule. Block, a writer who lives in Dallas, received an immediate reply: Of course the airline would help her.

"You won't believe this part," she told me. "It happened on Thanksgiving morning."

Oh, no, that part I would believe. See, that's the funny thing about

the travel industry. For a business that, with a few notable exceptions, thinks nothing of offending its customers most of the year, the short-lived transformation during the holidays is incredible.

And it cuts both ways. This is the time of year when you hear about customers committing random acts of kindness, too.

Joellen Freeman, an administrative assistant from

Lexington, S.C., was flying from Cleveland to Atlanta when she witnessed a remarkable seat switch. "A gentleman came up to a soldier," she remembers. "He introduced himself and then asked the soldier about his seat assignment. He then traded seats with the soldier — giving up his first-class seat for one in coach as an expression of his gratitude for the service of the young man. It was very touching."



By Christopher Elliot

Not all these gestures are spontaneous, but that doesn't make them any less remarkable.

At the Sheraton Kauai, employees donated 1,000 pounds of food to the Hawaii Food Bank for Thanksgiving. Then, for good measure, they threw in the keys to the van. "This effort has led to the resort designating a Food Bank Table in the hotel's restaurant each day where proceeds from that table will be donated to the Hawaii Food Bank," says Jonathan Pappas, a spokesman for the resort.

I don't know about you, but I love hearing about how the travel industry goes out of its way to be charitable year-round. As a consumer advocate who deals with complaints all the time, these stories give me hope. Because charitable giving and good customer service often go hand in hand, they make me believe that one day, this industry will again compete on customer service and not just price.



Christopher Elliot writes The Navigator column for The Washington Post.

## DISCUSSIONS

### Flight Crew

**Just got back from Puerto Vallarta and learned that banks, money exchange places and resorts wouldn't cash traveler's checks.**

Traveler's checks are no longer welcome in many countries. Many shops in Europe stopped accepting them years ago, and I don't get them when I

travel. You often have to go to banks to get them cashed, and that's a hassle. I hear they're still welcome in China.

**I am traveling to Costa Rica and looking for a hotel in Tamarin-do within walking distance of the beach.**

Hotel Arco Iris is within walking distance of the beach, with high season rates of \$99 a night. But it'll be more if you're going around holidays.



The Washington Post's Flight Crew fields travel-related questions, comments, gripes and stories at 2 p.m. every Monday at [washingtonpost.com/travel](http://washingtonpost.com/travel).



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NE - 1661 Trinidad Ave. 2 BR, 1 BA apt, newly  
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Fred A. Smith Company  
NE- 927 52nd St - Secure 1BR new w/w,  
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newly renovated 1BR, 2BR & 3BR units. Voucher  
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**2-BR MOVE-IN**  
**SPECIAL\***  
(MUST MOVE IN BY 12/19/11)

- Metro accessible /the Green line
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- Fitness centers, built in microwaves
- Controlled access to the property
- FREE internet

The Overlook at Oxon Run  
3700 9th Street SE, Washington DC 20032  
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1st month rent free. Good Credit Required.  
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SE Texas Ave & E. Cap  
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**Start the New Year In**  
**A New Apartment Home**  
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## DC RENTALS

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Open M-F 8-5 • Saturday 9-4  
**ALL CREDIT CONSIDERED**  
**1 BEDROOMS**  
**FROM \$795**  
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**FROM \$955**  
Enter raffle  
to win iPad,  
big Screen  
TV & iPod.  
Must  
move in by  
12/23/11

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\* REST OF NOVEMBER FREE  
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SE DC - 1, 3 & 4 BR apartments, newly renovated, W/D, brand new appliances, section 8 ok. \$1000-\$1839. Call 202-744-2851

SE EHO

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#### THE NEW DOUGLAS KNOLL

- Newly upgraded appliances
- Wall to wall carpet
- Dishwasher
- Instant approval
- UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

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Income Guidelines Apply

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SE/NR Minn Ave. 2BR AC, gas heat, good credit required, section 8 ok. 202-546-0704

Silver Spring—\$1,800, 3 br, 2 ba, newly ren., "Southern Exposure" Spotswood Dr, Silver Spring, MD, 3016061740

Southeast EHO

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**\$300 Off 1st Month**

**\$200 Off 2nd Mo**

**\$100 Off 3rd Mo**

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1,2,3 BRs start at \$785

\$20 APPLICATION FEE!

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## MD RENTALS

## MD RENTALS

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EHO

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- Separate dining area
- Dens available
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Hyattsville



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Large 1BR \$705  
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Deposit one Month Rent on approved credit

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EHO

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UPON MOVE-IN\***

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3400 55th Avenue

\*on select apts; limited time offer

HYATTSVILLE EHO

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(limited time only!)

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  - Pay Only Electric
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#### GATED COMMUNITY

1, 2, & 3 BR Apts  
Huge 2 BR Townhomes

- Fitness Center on Property
- Beautiful Kitchens-  
Granite Countertops\*\*
- Washer/Dryer\*\*
- Outdoor & Indoor Pools

\*\*Select Units

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Hyattsville

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from \$785**

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- Roomy, Modern Apts
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- Cathedral ceiling

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SPECIAL!**

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- Dishwasher
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## MD RENTALS

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**\$200 Security Deposit \***  
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 3 Bdrm w/2 bthrm  
**ONLY \$1310**  
**\$300 OFF 1st mo's Rent**  
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 Excellent Customer Service • 2 Blocks from Metro!  
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**15 MONTH LEASE**  
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**1 BRs fr \$860**  
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**UNTIL JAN. 2012!**  
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 Excellent Customer Service  
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 LOVELY PARK-LIKE SETTING!  
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*Housing Choice Vouchers Welcome*

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**Move in by 12/31/11 and Get January Free!\***  
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*\*Select apts. Call for Details*  
 Apply online at WoodsofMarlton.com

## WOW!!!

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 Furnished Efficiencies: \$378 Wk • \$1380 Mo  
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 Efficiency from ....\$920\* 2 Bedroom from..\$1515\*  
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**Spacious Penthouse From \$1860\***  
 **HURRY!**  
**-They're Going Fast**

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*\*All Prices & Specials Subject to change without notice.*  
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**1 Bedrooms starting at \$856\*\***  
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Apartment Homes

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for current specials & availability

## ROOMMATES

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Hyattsville—\$450 room or \$650 with bath. No Pets, smoking Outside. Utills. shared. 450/650 Deposit  
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NE FORT TOTTEN New Hampshire & Eastern Ave. Room, \$500/month negot. incld util. W/D. No smoking. Male/female. Call 202-669-6496

NE/Ft Totten Metro- Prof. Female to shr unfurn BR, 4BR 2.5BA SFH. N/S, Cable, Wi-Fi, maid svc. CAC/heat \$850/m incl utls. 202-494-3692

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## Online



**Blog  
Log**



“So, what color should the city pick? Yellow is too readily identified with New York. White and black are probably too bland to become iconic. There is a petition floating around to select red, which would be very appropriate. Not only is red the ‘city color,’ it’s also the color of the Circulator buses, local WMATA buses and Capital Bikeshare. Tying together all our transportation modes with a unified color scheme would be very strong branding.”

— **BEYONDDC.COM** thinks the city has an easy choice for which color to make all D.C. taxis, per a new industry overhaul bill proposed by D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray on Monday.

“The village was dubbed ‘el primer pueblo Pitufo del mundo’ — the first Smurf village in the world. Of course, the Smurfs have to come from somewhere, so why not Júzcar?”

— **KURIOSITAS.COM** thinks the small town in southern Spain made the right move in voting to keep their town painted blue recently, six months after it was done for a publicity stunt in conjunction with the Sony movie “The Smurfs.”

“Well, as someone who’s done plenty of crack, I can assure you that you do not snort it. So not only is the tweet in poor taste, it is ill-informed.”

— **KIRSTEN BOYD JONHSON AT WONKETTE.COM** reacts in jest to a tweet by University of Texas College Republicans president Cassandra Wright, who is under fire for tweeting “My president is black, he snorts a lot of crack. Holla. #2012 #Obama.”

“WHAT? WHY?! Jerry Sandusky’s lawyer hosted a Giants game watch? First of all, he’s from Philadelphia — unacceptable, Joe. Second, really? I’m at a loss for words. Why do I get the feeling this was like that weird party Tom Cruise went to in ‘Eyes Wide Shut’?”

— **CROSSINGBROAD.COM** is stunned that NBC correspondent Jay Gray was arrested on suspicion of DUI by Pennsylvania state police after a party that Sandusky’s lawyer, Joe Amendola, above, threw Sunday.

“Frantic to hear a Hall & Oates song but can’t access YouTube? Your collectors edition CD is scratched? Or the tape player isn’t working? Don’t fret — there’s a hotline to help.”

— **WORKITLA.COM** recommends the new hotline, 719-26-OATES, dubbed “Call & Oates,” that plays songs from the 1980s band’s discography.

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Puzzles

Horoscope

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Take care that you don't fall into the trap of assuming you are less than the best simply because you don't feel it.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Someone is trying to send you an urgent message, and yet the contents of that message are not all that urgent to you.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You may be seeing things through a distorted lens of your own creation. It's time to be simpler, straightforward and clear.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) The mistakes you make can offer you important lessons, but only if you are willing to look at them closely and analyze them in detail.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Deepening feelings between you and someone you work closely with may be complicating a situation that should, for now, remain uncomplicated.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Courtesy can open many doors for you — and the simpler the better. It may be as easy as saying please and thank you.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 2) You may be depending on another for something that is already close at hand and available to you. Try going it alone.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You must be willing to let someone who is in your charge spread his or her wings a bit — though you will also want to remain close at hand.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) A painful memory must not be allowed to pull you down into an emotional rut; remember, you rose above it before, and you can again.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You may have to make a quick decision that affects others as well as yourself. Explanations may be required later.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You're looking ahead into the future as someone else wishes to pull you back into the past. It may be time to cut certain ties.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Take care that you don't start playing games with another's emotions — lest he or she turn the tables on you and cause you real pain.

Scrabble Grams

PAR SCORE 145-155, BEST SCORE 226

E<sub>1</sub>

I<sub>1</sub>

U<sub>1</sub>

N<sub>1</sub>

T<sub>1</sub>

N<sub>1</sub>

P<sub>3</sub>

A<sub>1</sub>

O<sub>1</sub>

U<sub>1</sub>

R<sub>1</sub>

L<sub>1</sub>

M<sub>3</sub>

D<sub>2</sub>

A<sub>1</sub>

E<sub>1</sub>

I<sub>1</sub>

O<sub>1</sub>

H<sub>4</sub>

M<sub>3</sub>

B<sub>3</sub>

A<sub>1</sub>

U<sub>1</sub>

Y<sub>4</sub>

L<sub>1</sub>

N<sub>1</sub>

G<sub>2</sub>

P<sub>3</sub>

4th Letter Double

Triple Word Score

RACK 1

RACK 2

RACK 3

RACK 4

Yesterday's Solution

S <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>4</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	G <sub>2</sub>	Y <sub>4</sub>
C <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>
S <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>4</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	M <sub>3</sub>	
F <sub>4</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	M <sub>3</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>
PAR SCORE 145-155						
RACK 1 =						92
RACK 2 =						63
RACK 3 =						11
RACK 4 =						62
TOTAL						228

FOUR RACK TOTAL

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

MEDIUM

	4			5		7	
3				7		9	1
	5	7	6			8	
1						4	
	7			4			8
		8					7
		3			4	2	6
5		2		1			3
	6		3				9

Yesterday's Solution

2	8	1	6	7	5	9	3	4
4	6	3	2	1	9	8	7	5
9	7	5	3	4	8	1	6	2
3	2	9	4	6	7	5	1	8
1	5	6	9	8	3	2	4	7
8	4	7	5	2	1	3	9	6
5	1	2	7	3	6	4	8	9
6	9	8	1	5	4	7	2	3
7	3	4	8	9	2	6	5	1

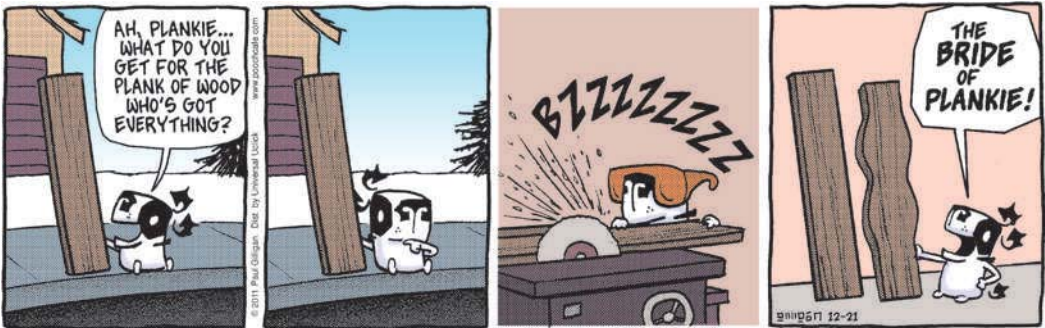
**Need more Sudoku?** Find another puzzle in the Comics section of The Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

© PUZZLES BY PAPPOCOM

Comics

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POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS



Forecast

60 | 49

**Today:** Rain today; areas of fog during the morning. Clouds breaking tonight.

59 | 43

**Tomorrow:** Mild tomorrow with some sun, then clouds. Rain tomorrow night.

Looking Ahead

FRI SAT SUN

55 | 37 49 | 38 44 | 33

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today: 7:23 a.m.  
Sunset today: 4:49 p.m.  
Moonrise today: 3:54 a.m.  
Moonset today: 2:06 p.m.

Almanac


Normal high: 45  
Record high: 66  
Normal low: 31  
Record low: 2

FORECAST BY ACCUWEATHER.COM ©2009





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Elisa and Jamil on a picnic in Fort DuPont Park.

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# Puzzles

## Crossword

S-CAPED

### ACROSS

- 1 Attack, as with snowballs
- 5 Gather
- 10 Load a hold
- 14 It smells
- 15 "Abracadabra" stuff
- 16 Last word in church
- 17 Wrinkly Jamaican fruit
- 18 Covered by waves
- 19 Tender-hearted
- 20 Bring in the crop
- 21 Toddler's third set of wheels?
- 23 Actor Pesci
- 25 "The Secret of \_\_\_\_" (1982 Don Bluth cartoon)
- 26 Drop the ball, literally or figuratively
- 27 Well-armed animal?
- 31 DEA guy
- 33 Subatomic particle
- 35 Boundary between Europe and Asia
- 39 Flair
- 40 Condemns verbally
- 43 Satanic
- 44 Luke's father's title
- 46 CBS hit drama (with "The")
- 48 Pudding starch
- 51 Gave the goad-ahead?
- 52 One doing checks and balances?
- 55 Arctic Circle inhabitant
- 57 Bard's "always"
- 58 Dominatrix?
- 61 The golden calf, for one
- 65 Highlight of an opera
- 66 Strong point
- 67 "\_\_\_\_ Las Vegas" (Presley flick)
- 68 Distort
- 69 Massachusetts quartet?
- 70 Tied, as a score
- 71 Burglar's booty
- 72 "What \_\_\_\_ to be the problem?"
- 73 "The Fountainhead" novelist Ayn

### DOWN

- 1 Dispense, as milk
- 2 Border

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21					22				
			23	24			25					26		
27	28	29				30		31			32			
33						34				35		36	37	38
39					40			41	42		43			
44				45			46			47				
			48		49	50		51						
52	53	54		55			56		57					
58			59					60			61	62	63	64
65						66					67			
68						69					70			
71						72					73			

EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

- 3 Kinks title woman
- 4 Travel agencies?
- 5 They don't play for pay
- 6 Pennsylvania's Bryn \_\_\_\_ College
- 7 "Encore!"
- 8 Bird related to the goldfinch
- 9 Conceptual framework
- 10 Mascara target
- 11 "That's \_\_\_\_" (Dean Martin hit)
- 12 Put off till later
- 13 Pencil maze word
- 22 Drive-\_\_\_\_ window
- 24 Choose
- 27 Newspaper commentary page
- 28 Pepsi, for one
- 29 Russian ruler of old
- 30 Costa del \_\_\_\_
- 32 Captain at the helm?
- 34 Persistently annoy
- 36 Raring to go
- 37 Kind of jacket or insurance
- 38 Conveyance on a snowy slope
- 41 It goes through the wringer
- 42 Cause for a massage
- 45 Angel topper
- 47 John who shall remain nameless?
- 49 Bloopers
- 50 Fight against
- 52 Don't belong together
- 53 Heavy coat
- 54 Bye-bye, in Bordeaux
- 56 Analyze grammatically

- 59 Small boat
- 60 Agenda entry
- 62 "Brava!" recipient
- 63 Kiln
- 64 Touch down

### Yesterday's Solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
T	A	I		G	Y	R	O		S	T	U	A	R
A	N	D		R	E	A	M		C	O	R	N	E
D	E	L	T	A	T	H	E		A	S	I	G	M
S	W	E	A	T		G	A	B	S		L	A	P
				C	A	S	U	A	L		R	E	P
U	I	D	O		A	L	G	E	R		I	A	
I	E			T	I	N	A		E	R	N	E	S
A	L	P	H	A	L	A	M	B	D	A	I	O	T
H	E	T	E	R	O		M	I	E	N		N	O
				S	E	R	R	A	T	E		A	S
A	M			I	L	S			P	E	M		A
A	N	A		M	A	G	I		S	T	O	O	L
K	A	P	P	A	B	E	T		A	C	H	I	P
E	N	S	U	R	E		A	L	O	E		A	L
S	E	E	P	E	D		U	P	O	N		L	O

## Today in History

- 1620** Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower go ashore for the first time at present-day Plymouth, Mass.
- 1988** A terrorist bomb explodes aboard a Pam Am Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 and sending wreckage crashing to the ground.
- 1991** Eleven of the 12 former Soviet republics proclaim the end of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

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# People



## SPLITS 'DWTS' Wrecks Yet Another Relationship

Chaz Bono and fiancée Jennifer Elia have ended their engagement. The pair "leave this relationship with great love, respect and affection towards one another," Bono's rep, Howard Bragman, said in a statement. He adds that the two are seeking privacy in the matter. Bono, who recently appeared on "Dancing With the Stars," and Elia have been dating and engaged for years. (AP)

## ALIVE

### Gerard Butler Safe, Unhurt After Scary Wave Incident

Gerard Butler was pulled underwater while filming the surfing movie "Of Men and Mavericks" Sunday. A safety patrolman rescued him. People.com reports that Butler was dazed but mostly unhurt. He "had that 100-yard hold-down or near-death experience," ESPN.com reported. (AP)



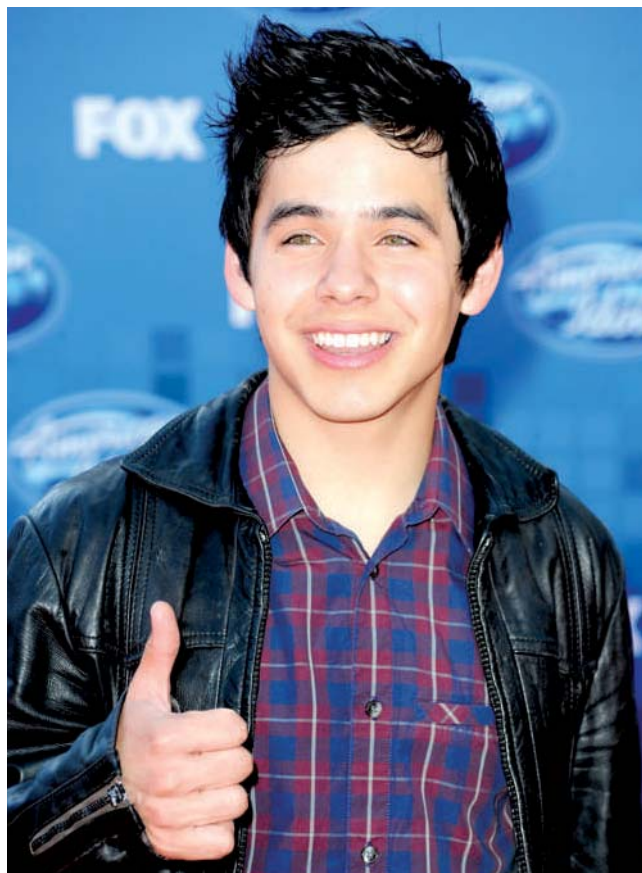
Scientists created the humandoodle as a hypoallergenic spouse alternative.

## Victims



### 'I Sued These People? When?'

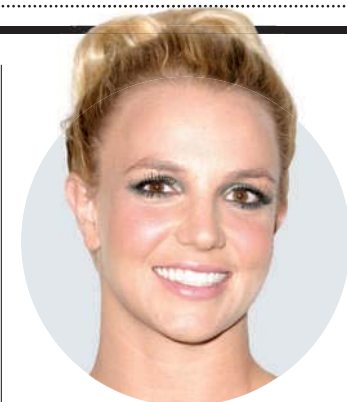
Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi is being countersued by licensing company SRG Ventures, the New York Post reported. Polizzi sued the company in October, saying it had not secured her the money and branding partnerships it promised. The company now says she negotiated for partnerships without its knowing, which her lawyer denies. (EXPRESS)



FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES

## A SURE HIT Sounds Like a Musical!

"American Idol" runner-up David Archuleta will take a break from his singing career to serve a two-year proselytizing mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he announced Monday at a concert in Salt Lake City. The 20-year-old said he's not quitting music but feels a strong call to serve the church. He was overwhelmed with emotion and cried as he talked about his plans. (AP)



## WE CAN READ YOUR MIND You're All Judging Her. So Why Shouldn't He?

Jason Alexander, the childhood friend Britney Spears married in Las Vegas in 2004 (it was annulled after 55 hours), is mad about her engagement to Jason Trawick. "I know everyone wants me to be happy about this, but I am not," he told Usmagazine.com. "I think it's fake and I think people are afraid to say it." He added, "If you look at all the pictures between them, there is no connection." (EXPRESS)

## "These shows could go on for years. There are so many of us."



—KIM KARDASHIAN, TO THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER. THEN, HER HEAD SPUN 360 DEGREES AND SHE INTONED, "MY NAME IS LEGION, FOR WE ARE MANY." OR NOT.

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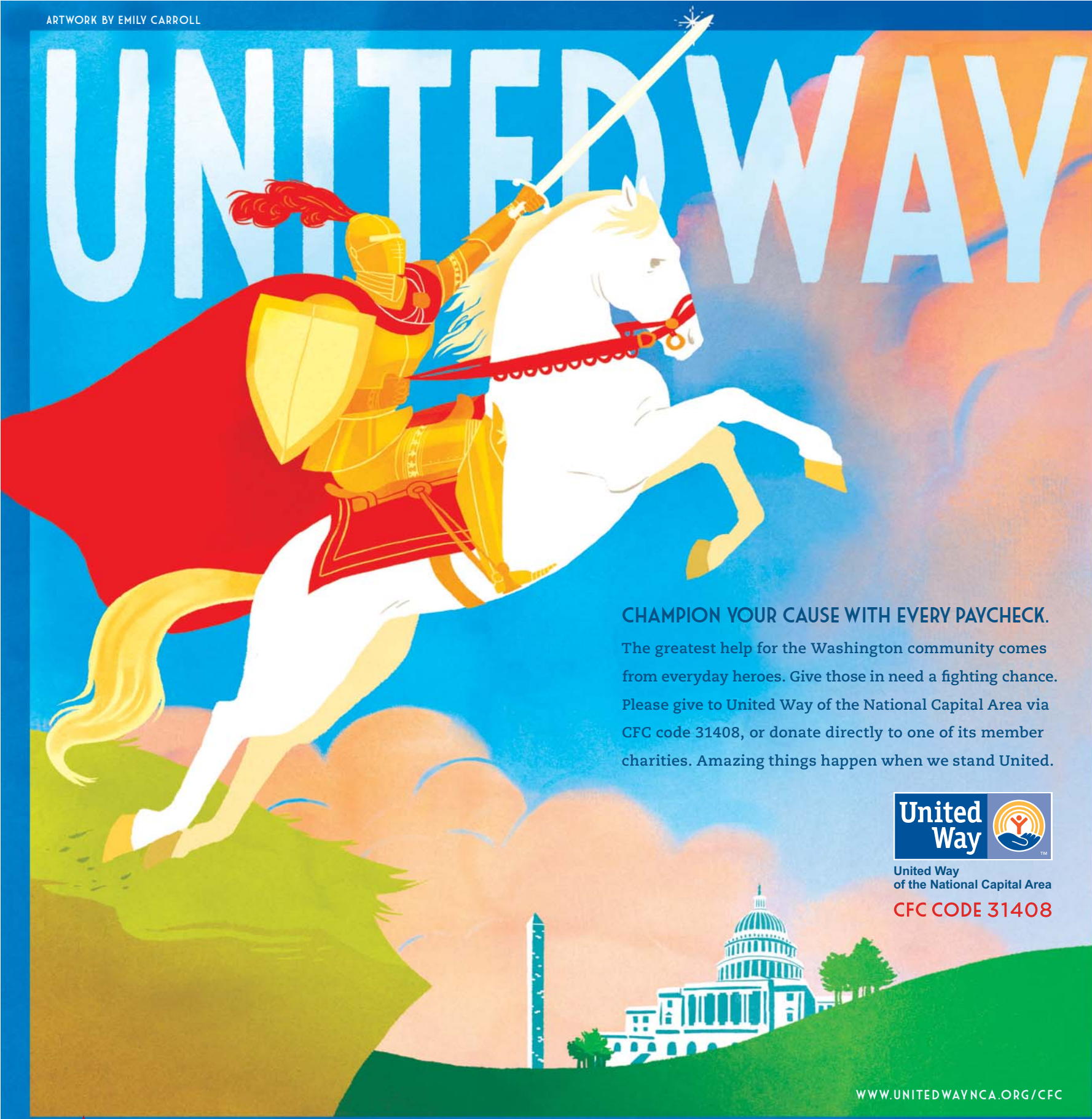
after

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